

Darknet: What it is, how it works, and key risks to watch out for

Gridinsoft Help Center

What it is

Why people use it

- Privacy: whistleblowing, research, or avoiding censorship.
- Crime: trading stolen data, malware, drugs, or hacking services under cover of anonymity.

How it works

- Traffic is routed through multiple relays to hide who you are and where a site is hosted.
- Sites use non-standard addresses (e.g., .onion), only reachable via special browsers.

Risks to know

- Scams and exit scams are common; sellers vanish with funds.
- Malware and phishing thrive; many downloads are booby-trapped.
- Crypto payments are irreversible; fake "escrow" services abound.
- Law enforcement monitors markets and can deanonymize sloppy users.

If you go there (safety basics)

- Use a dedicated, up-to-date browser/device; avoid downloads.
- Never reveal personal info; assume chats are logged.
- Treat links, files, and "wallet helpers" as hostile.
- Understand local laws-access isn't a crime, activity can be.